

Thank you for your email which you clearly spent a lot of effort typing. It is unfortunately factually incorrect in almost all aspects. I have outlined the inaccuracies in-line in **bold**, below this message.

Since facts do not appear to be the basis here, let me appeal to you an emotional level: This is what your organization will be fighting to end: <https://instagram.com/p/BmOy-BXAHtI/>

As you can see, the enemy of the above joy being had will not look very good in the eyes of the public

On Wed, Aug 8, 2018, 10:55 AM Lee Koch wrote:

Mike:

Bruce Hamilton has forwarded your letter to Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, to me. You are correct in your assertion that the Sierra Club has chosen to oppose the use of the area adjacent to the mouth of the Santa Ana River as a “dog beach.” This is not a new position. Our opposition has been publicly stated since 2016. We are not alone. A number of environmental and civic organizations in the area share our opposition. There are numerous reasons why we have taken this position.

This position is new, seeing as how this has been used as a Dog Beach for 101 years. I’m sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?
Zero civic organizations share your opinion.

1 – The area in question has never been a legal dog beach. Dogs off-leash are not permitted on any of the beaches within the City of Newport Beach. They are allowed on the beaches before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. provided they are on leash. The County of Orange, City of Newport Beach, California State Parks, and the City of Huntington Beach all have some jurisdiction over the site.

This is incorrect. The hours are until 4:30pm, as shown here:
<https://www.newportbeachca.gov/how-do-i-/find/beach-information>

Only the County of Orange has jurisdiction over the site. Newport Beach is merely a municipality which must be crossed through to enter the County land. It is Newport Beach which is creating the problem, blocking people from getting to Dog Beach.

I’m sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?

2 - Limited resources make it difficult for the authorities responsible to adequately enforce the regulations. This fact has been noticed by numerous pet owners, and the incursion of unleashed dogs on the beach in the area has increased to the point of being a public nuisance. Located in a residential area, there is limited public parking. There are no public restroom facilities on this particular stretch of beach.

I know it may be a difficult concept, but Dog Beach is actually located on the beach, where parking is always limited. Whether or not it exists has zero bearing on whether or not there is parking or beach use. I’m sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?

3 - Dogs and their humans frolic in the Santa Ana River during low tide conditions. There is inadequate monitoring of the water quality at this site where the freshwater river empties into the sea. The water may be polluted at different times of the year endangering the health of both the dogs and their humans. It also appears likely that the untethered presence of dogs in the water can actually increase pollution in an area where the river flows into the sea.

There are several points here, so I will itemize them:

a) There is weekly monitoring of the water quality in this area, as shown at

<https://ocbeachinfo.com/> I'm sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?

b) This "river" is a man-made drainage ditch. I'm sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?

c) You cannot simultaneously hold the belief that this ditch is "freshwater" and also "polluted water".

d) When the ditch is dumping water into the ocean, it is dirty—always. Alerts are sent out by OC Beach Info, linked above. Dogs should not be in the water when it is dirty. As you have likely noticed from the rain history, ALL beaches are marked as hazardous after rains, as it is all runoff water. This is not particular to Dog Beach, so let's not pretend that it is if we are to pretend to have fact-based conversations. If your opinion is that after rains, dogs and humans should not be in Dog Beach, then your opinion should be that they should also not be on any beach after a rain, because it is polluted. Barring pollution caused by run-off, one can assume that dogs and humans should be allowed on Dog Beach, right? I'm sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?

e) There is absolutely zero evidence to suggest that unleashed dogs in the water can increase pollution. In fact, Assembly Member Ted Lieu commissioned a 2006 report that found no evidence of water quality OR wildlife issues. I'm sure you've read it, before taking a position here, right?

4 – Locating an off-leash dog park immediately adjacent to an existing California Least Tern Natural Preserve, western snowy plover designated critical habitat, a coastal dune restoration site, and in close proximity to coastal California gnatcatcher designated critical habitat is not in alignment with these special and approved designations.

This site is one of the most successful Least Tern preserves in the entire state of California. Aside from one year where a coyote literally jumped both fences and ate many of the eggs, this has been as successful for as far back as I can find records for. I'm sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?

5 – There is a large legally designated dog beach four miles up the coast in Huntington Beach. **What bearing does a Huntington Dog Beach have on this Dog Beach? Besides, the HB Dog Beach is set to go away in just a few years, as the State has figured out that it is far more profitable to rent the land to music festivals. I'm sure you looked into this before taking a position here, right?**

Many of our Sierra Club members are proud dog owners, but we recognize that wise stewardship of the environment includes best practices that may present restraints on the interaction of our furry friends and their guardians with that environment. We appreciate your concerns and encourage you to seek a

more appropriate location for a legally designated dog beach such as the one currently available in Huntington Beach.

Also, out of curiosity: Do the rest of the local Sierra Club members in this area know that the Sierra Club is opposing dog beach and using their name and funds to do so? I would be willing to bet that you would get far more negative feedback than positive.

From: Mike Glenn <michael.glenn@devion.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 2:48 PM

To: Bruce Hamilton <bruce.hamilton@sierraclub.org>

Cc: George Watland <george.watland@sierraclub.org>; slkoch@ix.netcom.com

Subject: Re: Sierra Club opposing Dog Beach-- which is actually helping the environment?

Thank you Bruce.

Sharon or George, do you have time for a phone call this week?

Thanks so much,

Mike

On Mon, Jul 23, 2018, 10:24 AM Bruce Hamilton <bruce.hamilton@sierraclub.org> wrote:

Dear Mike Glenn,

Thank you for contacting Michael Brune. He is off for two weeks on family vacation and asked me to respond. On local matters such as this we defer to our local chapters and groups to research the issue and take a policy position. I am copying your letter to the volunteer chair of our Angeles Chapter who is from Newport Beach and George Watland who is the senior staff member for the Angeles Chapter which covers this geography. Hopefully you can have a fruitful dialog with them and share your information. The national Sierra Club and our Executive Director would not get involved in these local issues.

Bruce H. Hamilton

Deputy Executive Director

Sierra Club

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Glenn** <michael.glenn@devion.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 20, 2018 at 10:52 AM

Subject: Sierra Club opposing Dog Beach-- which is actually helping the environment?

To: michael.brune@sierraclub.org

Hi Michael,

I'm Mike Glenn, local activist, in Newport Beach.

The Sierra Club has recently begun pushback on a local Dog Beach which has been operating between the borders of Newport Beach and Huntington Beach California for 101 years.

The reason behind the pushback is that we have a species in conservation status—the Least Tern—which has a breeding ground 300 feet away, up a hill, through sand and weeds, and behind a double-fenced enclosure.

This breeding ground is of zero interest to dogs. I've literally never seen a dog go up the hill, let alone get anywhere near the fence. However, what dogs DO do, is scare off predators. Indeed, the breeding ground there for the Least Terns is an outlier in being one of the most successful breeding grounds on the entire West Coast—mostly due to dogs scaring off predators.

There was one incident where a coyote jumped (yes, jumped) both fences and went in and ate all the eggs a few years ago, but other than that, this is a model of what breeding grounds should be—thanks to man's best friend, accidentally guarding the habitat next door.

Like most people, I live in an area that really, REALLY loves their dogs. This is the last remaining dog beach on our coastline, and people are extremely upset that a few nearby neighbors want to turn it in to their own private beach (which is the source of all this controversy, and why the Sierra Club got pulled into this by those same parties).

I know that there are a lot of fundraising opportunities in this wealthy area for the Sierra Club, and coming in on the side of Dogs is a PR move that is hard to pass up—especially when it actually helps the Least Terns, to boot!

Do you have time for a call sometime next week?

Thanks so much,

Mike

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Bruce H. Hamilton

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